

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 EUR-12 IO-10 AID-05 SY-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /087 W

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R 101230Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 649

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KHARTOUM 2619

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PINS, SU

SUBJ: ATTORNEY GENERAL DISMISSED IN CONNECTION WITH SEPTEMBER
5 COUP ATTEMPT

1. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, PRESIDENT NIMEIRI RELIEVED ABDEL MAJID IMAM AS ATTORNEY GENERAL ON NOVEMBER 8 AFTER HAVING BEEN INFORMED THAT IMAM HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED BY SOME OF THOSE ACCUSED OF PARTICIPATING IN THE SEPTEMBER 5 COUP ATTEMPT AS A CANDIDATE FOR A LEADERSHIP POSITION IN THE POST-COUP GOVERNMENT. NEWS OF THE DISMISSAL WAS COUCHED IN TERMS OF NIMEIRI'S VIEW THAT IT WAS "NECESSARY, FOR THE SENSITIVITY OF THE POST IN SUPERVISING THE APPLICATION OF THE LAW, TO RELIEVE IMAM IN ORDER CREATE AN IMPARTIAL ATMOSPHERE FOR THE INVESTIGATION."

2. COMMENT: THE DELICATE MANNER IN WHICH NIMEIRI HANDLED THIS MATTER MAY INDICATE HIS DESIRE DOWNPLAY POSSIBILITY OF HIGH LEVEL "INSIDE" COMPLICITY IN COUP ATTEMPT OR HIS DISBELIEF OF ANY BLAME ON IMAM'S PART, OR BOTH. NIMEIRI IS REPORTED TO GENUINELY REGRET THE INCIDENT, AND IT APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT ANY FURTHER ACTION AGAINST IMAM WILL BE TAKEN.

3. AMPLE PRE-1968 BIO DATA ON IMAM AVAILABLE IN WASHINGTON REVEALS HE PLAYED HERO'S ROLE IN 1964 OVERTHROW OF ABOUD REGIME, FOR
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WHICH NIMEIRI HIMSELF TAKES CREDIT. NEVERTHELESS, AND FOR

REASONS UNKNOWN TO US, IMAM WAS RELIEVED AS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT WHEN NIMEIRI CAME TO POWER IN 1969. IN 1972, IMAM CONTRIBUTED TO THE DRAFTING OF THE 1973 CONSTITUTION AS A MEMBER OF THE FIRST NATIONAL PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY. WHEN THAT BODY WAD DISSOLVED, HE RETURNED TO PRIVATE PRACTICE AND REMAINED THERE UNTIL APPOINTED ATTORNEY GENERAL IN SUMMER 1975.

4. FINALLY, IT WORTH NOTING THAT IMAM IS ETHNIC WESTERNER. ASWE HAVE REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, WESTERNERS SEEM TO HAVE FIGURED PROMINENTLY IN LISTS OF PERSONS SUSPECTED OF INVOLVEMENT IN COUP ATTEMPT. IMAM WAS BORN 1918 IN THAT SECTION OF OMDURMAN SETTLED BY WESTERN TRIBES DURING THE MAHDIYYA.
BREWER

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PINS, SU, (ABDEL MJID IMAM), (NIMEIRI, JAFFAR MOHAMED)
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